

increases in heroin use, cocaine use, designer drug use. What is interesting even in the marijuana area is that the marijuana that was used in the 1960's and 1970's was nowhere near as powerful as what this report says is 30, 40 times as powerful and is messing up the brains and the genes and the minds of our young people. That is one of the problems that we see with crime, with disorder and again with the use of these drugs by our young people.

□ 1830

So the reports are in. The Congress, my subcommittee over at International Affairs and Oversight has released this report. We now have the report of the drug abuse warning network that shows that the problem is even worse than what this chart details before us.

But I think, my colleagues, that it is time that we took back our children, I think it time that we took back our schools, that we took back our streets, we took back our communities, the violence that we have seen, the crime that is related to drug abuse. My sheriffs and police chiefs have told me that 70 percent of the criminals that they have incarcerated are involved with drugs, and narcotics and illegal substances.

So we know where the problem is. It is not going to be answered by curfews, it is not going to be answered by regulating cigarettes, it is not going to be answered by uniforms or V-chips. It is going to be answered by the highest leadership of this country, the White House, taking this issue seriously. It is going to be answered by this Congress providing more resources to a drug interdiction program and education programs, some of which have been gutted by this administration, and making drug abuse and misuse a serious topic of conversation because it is ruining our ability to live as a society.

We heard about the black churches that have been destroyed across the Nation. Well, just in this city since I have been in Congress the last 3½ years, 1,000, in excess of 1,000, young black males between the ages of 14 and 45 have lost their lives in a drug war. I asked the President in any war I would send in the National Guard, and when we saw what was going on here with the deaths, he denied our activity. I participated in a hearing in San Juan today, and we found that where they brought in the National Guard where they had high intensity or problems that, in fact, they took their streets back.

So we are going to have to take whatever measures are necessary because we are in a war. The victims in this war are children. We are losing a generation. Our jails are filled. We cannot put any more people in prison, so we are going to have to concentrate on what has become a national scandal and a national problem, and that is drug abuse and drug misuse. The direction the President has been heading in

is the wrong direction. We need to get in the right direction, and we need every American to speak out on this, not just in Congress, but throughout the land.

Mr. Speaker, we must solve this problem or we are not going to again have safe streets or have our children have an opportunity for the future.

CHURCH BURNINGS STRIKE MY DISTRICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JONES). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. HALL] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last night two churches in Greenville, TX, the fourth district that I represent, were damaged by fires which are suspected to be acts of arson. These are the latest in a long and tragic series of church burnings that have struck predominantly black, southern churches in the past 18 months. Whether these burnings eventually are found to be part of a conspiracy, isolated incidents, or "copy-cat" crimes, these are crimes that must be given top investigative priority.

Members of the blue dog coalition, of which I am a member, have joined with members of the Congressional Black Caucus in asking Attorney General Janet Reno to give this issue the full and focused attention of the Department of Justice. In recent weeks, we have received assurance that the Department is committed to thorough investigation of these burnings, and yesterday Attorney General Reno gave her personal assurances to a delegation of ministers. As we speak here tonight, agents from the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms are in Greenville investigating these recent burnings.

I would like to commend the efforts of the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana, Mr. CLEO FIELDS, and the distinguished gentleman from Alabama, GLEN BROWDER, for their leadership on this issue, and I join others in the blue dog coalition, the Congressional Black Caucus, other Members of Congress, and the majority of Americans in condemning these acts of violence. Whether these are crimes of hate or random incidents of vandalism and arson, this is a disturbing pattern of violence in America that must receive our serious attention.

The issue is not merely the physical damage resulting from these fires. I am confident that the congregations of Greenville's New Light House of Prayer and the Church of the Living God will unit to repair their churches and will be joined in that effort by the Greenville community at large. The issue is that these fires represent an act of violence that must not be tolerated in a free and civil society. When we read about church burnings or awaken one morning to discover that a suspicious fire has damaged a church in our own community, we are reminded that reli-

gious freedom is the solid rock upon which our great Nation was founded and which must be preserved and protected.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H. CON. RES. 178, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 1997

Ms GREENE of Utah, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-615) on the resolution (H. Res. 450) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 178) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 1997 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3603, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Ms. GREENE of Utah, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-616) on the resolution (H. Res. 451) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3603) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

IMPACT OF REPUBLICAN CUTS ON MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy on May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on previous occasions during these special orders I have talked about the impact of the Republican cuts in Medicare and the fact that the Republican leadership proposals on Medicare would cut the Medicare Program so much that most of the money, or a good percentage of the money that would be cut, would be used for tax breaks for wealthy Americans and also that the changes in the Medicare Program that have been proposed by the Republican leadership would negatively impact the Medicare Program by essentially depriving many senior citizens of their choice of doctor, pushing them into managed care programs; if they did not go into managed care of HMO programs, they would actually experience rather large